

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 20 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. It is believed that with the above amendments the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112 is overcome.

The Examiner has rejected claims 16 and 18 – 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Pemberton (U.S. 6,692,594) and claims 17, 20 – 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Milliorn (U.S. 2004/0247812). The Examiner has also rejected claims 1 – 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Milliorn in view of the English Abstract of Japanese 2001-226649.

The reference to Pemberton is directed to rectangular strips 13 intended to be affixed to furniture or to potted houseplants as a deterrent to cats. It includes a vapor transfer sheet 15 having layers of adhesive 23, 25 on opposite sides of a layer of plastic and a release layer 27. There is no teaching or suggestion in Pemberton of the feature of claims 16, 18 and 19 of the feature that the "... first release coating requiring greater force for removing said first layer from said second layer than the force required to remove the opposite side of said second layer from an adjacent adhesive layer. None of the other references teaches or suggests this feature. It is this feature which permits the ready separation of the layers without disturbing the other layers. This feature is particularly important in the case of a roll

of labels as set forth in claims 18 and 19. With respect to newly presented claim 26, dependent claim 18, it is clear that the strips 13 of Pemberton have no need for an adhesive as part of its structure which is of a type which, upon dispersion of water, does not form slurries or agglomerations which requires filtering-off in order to recycle the water. Although the adhesive coatings 23, 25 of Pemberton are indicated to be "... acrylic or a similar water soluble adhesive...", there is no teaching or suggestion of the adhesive being of a type which does not form slurries or agglomerations when dispersed in water. As pointed out in the specification of Pemberton, "Coating 25 creates a releasable bond between the film 21 and transfer sheet 13. The upper surface of transfer sheet 15 is treated with a paraffin to facilitate easy removal of strips 13 from transfer sheet 15."

With respect to claim 17, the claim specifically sets forth the feature of "... said first release coating permitting the unrolling of said roll without said first layer second side being pulled away from said second layer inner side." There is no teaching or suggestion in Milliorn or in the other references of record of the above quoted feature. Newly added claim 24, dependent upon claim 17, reinforces this position by specifically setting forth that the "... first release coating has stronger release characteristics than said second release coating." It obviously would not be suitable to have a roll of a double-sided adhesive strip in which, upon unrolling one surface thereof releases before the other sometimes but that at other times, the

other surface releases first. This would provide a totally unsatisfactory roll as the user would be unable to use the strip (i.e. the label) if the adhesive were to be released from the wrong side of the strip. There is no teaching or suggestion of this feature in Milliorn or in the other references of record. New claim 24 is dependent upon claim 17 and specifically sets forth the feature of the first release coating having stronger release characteristics than that of the second release coating.

With respect to the rejection of claims 20 – 23, the attorney for the Applicant acknowledges that Milliorn discloses the feature of using an adhesive which is water dispersible. Claims 20 – 22 have been amended to set forth the feature of the adhesive "... being of a type which, upon dispersion in water, does not form slurries or agglomerations which require filtering-off in order to recycle the water. This feature is also not shown or suggested by any of the references.

Claims 25 and 26, dependent respectively upon claims 17 and 18 have the feature of the adhesive being of a type, which, upon dispersion in water does not form a slurry or an agglomeration which requires filtering-off in order to recycle the water. As pointed out in the first full paragraph of page 5 of the present application this is an important feature which also has been added to claims 1 – 9 and 20 – 23.

There is no teachings or suggestions either in Pemberton, Milliorn (2004/0247812) or the English abstract of Japanese 2001-226649 or any reasonable combination of such references. Additionally, it is believed that none of the other references of

record disclose or suggest this feature.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 9 and 16 – 26 are unobvious over the prior art of record and that they are, therefore, patentable. In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of claims 1 – 9 and 16 – 26 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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